

b2 5 location for comparison therewith and, after determining if there is a match and outputting the associated routing information therefrom, transmitting this routed information back to the user's location.

Please add new Claim 8 as written below.

b3 sub c17 8. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of reading comprises scanning of the machine readable code with a bar code scanner and wherein the machine readable code comprises a bar code.

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Office Action dated June 3, 2002. Applicants have amended Claims 1, 6 and 7 to more clearly point out the present inventive concept. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Regarding Claims 1-7, rejected under 35 U.S.C. Sec. 102 (e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,199,048 B1, Hudetz et al. (hereinafter *Hudetz*), this rejection is respectfully traversed as follows.

Regarding independent Claim 1 which, as amended, includes the step of "in response to the step of reading the machine readable product code, *and without user intervention*, decoding the product code," Applicants respectfully point out that their method as recited in Claim 1 proceeds without user intervention. In contrast, the method in *Hudetz* requires the intervention of the user *to select* "one of the links 102-106, by mouse click or otherwise." (See Col. 9, lines 17-18.) Thus, *Hudetz* fails to disclose all of the steps of Applicants' invention as recited in the amended base Claim 1 and Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this rejection and the allowance of Claim 1 as amended.

Regarding dependent Claims 2-7, which directly or ultimately depend from base Claim 1 and

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

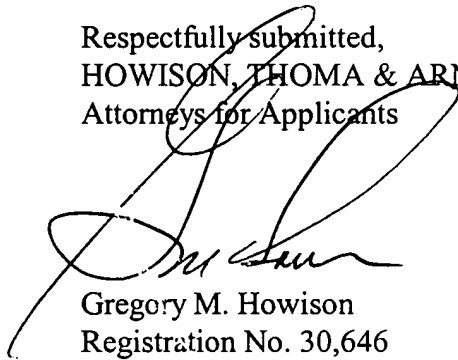
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contain all of the limitations of base Claim 1 as amended; Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2-7 are likewise allowable over the prior art of record. Withdrawal of this rejection and the allowance of Claims 2-7 is therefore respectfully requested.

Applicants have now made an earnest attempt in order to place this case in condition for allowance. For the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of the claims as amended. Please charge any additional fees or deficiencies in fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-0780/PHLY-24,745 of HOWISON, THOMA & ARNOTT, L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

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1. (Amended) A method for providing an interconnection relationship between a product and a desired location on a global communications network, comprising the steps of:

5 disposing a machine readable product code on the product [machine readable product code], the machine readable product code having encoded product information contained therein, the product code having no routing information embedded therein which would allow the product code, in and of itself, to cause routing to the desired location over any path on the network;

10 [read] reading the machine readable code;
in response to the step of reading the machine readable product code, and without user intervention, decoding the product code; and

15 converting the [extracted] decoded product code [for] to routing information over the network to the desired location, which routing information defines the manner by which a user or a computer at a user location wherein the machine readable code was read can communicate with the desired location via an interconnection therewith.

6. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of converting comprises:

5 providing a database having stored therein an associative table which relates a plurality of product codes with associated locations on the network, each of the product codes having routing information to that associated location associated therewith; and

comparing the [extracted] decoded information of the product code with the table in the database to determine the routing information.

7. (Amended) The method of Claim 6, wherein the database is not disposed at the user's location and is disposed at a remote location on the network, requiring a

further step of transmitting the [extracting] decoded information from the product code to the remote location for comparison therewith and, after determining if there is a match and outputting the associated routing information therefrom, transmitting this routed information back to the user's location.